Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04017 201250Z

47
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 LAB-02 SIL-01 EB-05 INR-10

RSC-01 DRC-01 /067 W
---------- 088925
R 201230Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6523
INFO /AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2335

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4017

ANKRA FOR RLA AISLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, IR
SUBJECT: DELAY IN ARRIVAL OF GOI MANPOWER TEAM

REFS: A. TEHRAN 2843 B. STATE 090681

1. UPON RECEIPT REF B, WHICH WE FOUND, INCIDENTALLY, EXCELLENT AND BALANCED PROGRAM, EMBASSY CONTACTED NASSERI, DIR GEN FOR EMPLOYMENT, AND ATTEMPTED SET UP ANOTHER QUADRIPARTITE MEET TO GET REACTIONS TO PROGRAM AND FINALIZE VISIT ARRANGEMENTS. NASSERI FINALLY CALLED BACK TO SUGGEST WORKING LUNCH WHICH HELD 19 MAY. AT LUNCH NASSERI INFORMED LABOR REPORTING OFFICER THAT PRIME MINISTER HAD DECIDED THAT ADDITIONAL PREPARATION FOR WASHINGTON VISIT NECESSARY AND HAD RECOMMENDED THAT MERSON (O/LAB) BE INVITED BACK THIS SUMMER TO ASSIST IN FORMULATING IRANIAN MANPOWER POLICIES. US VISIT COULD THEN TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER, WITH MERSON PERHAPS ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION BACK TO WASHINGTON. INVITATION TO MERSON PRESENTLY BEING PREPARED, BUT THIS TIME NOT BY LABOR MINISTER MOINI BUT BY PLAN ORGANIZATION HEAD MAJID MAJIDI.

2. AS ONE CONSEQUENCE OF CABINET RESHUFFLE OF 27 APRIL, OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANPOWER PLANNING AND POLICY MAKING SHIFTED TO PLAN ORG WITH POPULATION AND MANPOWER BUREAU CHIEF FAROKH AMIN ZADEH NOW BEING FOCAL POINT. PLAN ORG WILL NOW APPROVE ALL MANPOWER-RELATED PROJECTS INCLUDING CREATION OF EMPLOYEMENT OFFICES
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 04017 201250Z

AND MUST AUTHORIZE SUCH EXPENDITURE BY MINISTRIES. ALTHOUGH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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NASSERI DID NOT SO STATE, SHIFT OF MANPOWER PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY TO "SUPER-MINISTER" MAJIDI AND PLAN ORG APPEARS TO HAVE DIMMED CHANCES FOR CREATION, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT, OF INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICE UNDER MINISTRY OF LABOR. NASSERI ALSO HINTED AT POSSIBILITY OF IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF SOME TOP LEVEL MIN LABOR OFFICIALS AS RESULT OF MAJIDI'S ASCENDANCY OVER MINISTRIES IN SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD.

3. AMIN ZADEH, WHO WAS PRESENT AT LUNCH BUT WHO OFFERED LITTLE COMMENT OF HIS OWN, WAS ASKED ABOUT PROPOSED DATE AND DESIRED DURATION OF MERSON FOLLOWUP VISIT. WHEN NO ANSWER WAS FORTHCOMING, LABOR REPORTING OFFICER ASKED TO BE SENT COPY OF LETTER OF INVITATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MERSON'S SCHEDULE WAS SUCH THAT HE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE DESIRED PERIOD.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: PRPOSED US VISIT BY GOI TEAM APPEARS STILL VIABLE, PRESUMING MERSON WILLING AND AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION HERE THIS SUMMER AND PRESUMING PROGRAM OUTLINED REFB CAN STILL BE PUT TOGETHER IN SEPTEMBER. NEW BUREAUCRATIC RELATIONSHIPS AND EVIDENT DECLINE IN PRESTIGE OF LABOR MINISTER MOINI COMPLICATE THE PICTURE, BUT IF MESON FEELS HE CAN COPE, WE SUPPORT POSITIVE ANSWER TO INVITATION AS MEANS OF GETTING THE GOI DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON AND DOWN TO BUSINESS.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EO Systematic Review
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